

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 10 and 16 are being canceled herein, without prejudice. Independent claims 1, 21 and 30 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 30 may be found, for example, in the specification beginning on page 6, line 15 and beginning on page 8, line 21, and in canceled claims 10 and 16. Claims 11-13 and 17-20 are also amended herein to change their dependencies on canceled claims 10 and 16.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,506,497 issued to Kennedy et al. (hereinafter "Kennedy").

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. However, notwithstanding this traversal, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 21 and 30 to recite the limitation of having "one or more of a crosslinking component and an acid generator." These amendments are not being made for the purpose of patentability, but merely to clarify the subject matter to which Applicants are entitled.

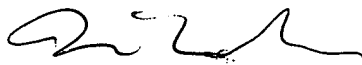
Given the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 30, from which all pending claims depend, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kennedy, for at least the reason that Kennedy neither teaches nor suggests either a crosslinking component or an acid generator.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-30, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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